

BOROUGH OF BODMIN

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE  
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1968

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Reed, M.B., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector:

A. F. J. Webb, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.



Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1968.

# I. GENERAL STATISTICS

Registrar General's Estimate of Mid Year Population	7,570
Area in Acres	3,312
Number of Inhabited Houses	2,458
Rateable Value	£238,872
Product of Penny Rate	£961
Comparability Factors	Births 1.15
	Deaths 0.40

## Vital Statistics

### Births

#### Number of Live Births, 1968

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	68	57	125
Illegitimate	4	8	12
Total	72	65	137

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	18.1
Comparable Birth Rate	20.8
Birth Rate - England and Wales	16.9

Five legitimate still-births were registered, three male and two female.

### Deaths

#### Registered Deaths, 1968

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	74	130	204

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population	26.9
Death Rate - England and Wales, 1968	11.9
Comparable Death Rate	10.76

### Infant Deaths

No deaths under the age of one year were recorded.

The Distribution of Deaths by Age, Sex and Cause

CAUSE	Sex	0	1	15	25	35	45	55	65	75+	TOTAL
Heart Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	5	8	18
	F	-	-	-	-	-	1	4	9	23	37
Cerebro Vascular Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	5	3	11
	F	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	5	11	18
Cancer	M	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	5	3	13
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	5	3	13
Respiratory Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7	6	14
	F	-	1	-	1	-	2	1	5	21	31
Accident	M	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	2	5
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	5	7
Other Causes	M	-	-	1	1	-	1	1	4	5	13
	F	-	-	-	1	1	-	3	10	11	26
Total	M	-	-	2	2	-	8	9	26	27	74
	F	-	1	-	2	2	3	14	34	74	130

II. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

Hospital Services

There were no major changes in the hospital provisions during 1968. Out-patient facilities continue at the East Cornwall Hospital for Medicine, Surgery and Orthopaedic Surgery, in cramped accommodation. An encouraging voluntary effort is being made to raise sufficient money to provide a new Out-patient department for the Hospital in the near future. The Maternity Unit at Penrice, St. Austell, conducts the larger part of the deliveries for mothers in the Borough. During 1968, out of 144 births, only 16 took place in the patient's home.

St. Lawrence's Hospital continues to provide services for the mentally ill for the major part of the County. In April, 1969, the Hospital will also assume responsibility for Units for the mentally sub-normal, one of which (Elizabeth Barclay Home) is in the town.

County Council Services

Ambulance Service. Transport of patients to hospital is provided by County Council vehicles from the Main Ambulance Station in Bodmin. The service provided was adequate.

Home Nursing, Health Visting and Midwifery Service. The County Health department provided a modified service during 1968. Nurses and Health Visitors were attached to individual doctors in the two practices, for a trial period. The intention is to provide a closer and more continuous patient-nurse-doctor relationship in which all may benefit.. The system is now in operation throughout the County.

Infant Welfare. The Centre in Narisa Hall continues to offer routine examination, advice and immunisation for infants and children under five years of age. Since immunisation became a separate item for payment to family doctors, the number of children attending has naturally declined.

Vaccination and Immunisation. In addition to the previous protective inoculations available, immunisation against measles was introduced during the year. An extensive programme was undertaken to immunise all susceptible children between the ages of 2 - 11, before the end of the year.

Home Help Service. Domestic help is provided on a means basis for the elderly and sick. The former by far provided the greater demand.

School Clinics, for dental, speech and ophthalmic services are held regularly in Narisa Hall.

Athelstan House is a County Council establishment providing excellent accommodation for 48 elderly persons no longer able to look after themselves. It has a very active League of Friends.

Voluntary Agencies. Meals of Wheels are provided for elderly persons by the W. V. S. and a very active Play Group uses Narisa Hall, where the accommodation is now becoming inadequate for their needs. A Family Planning Clinic is now established at the East Cornwall Hospital. The Council makes a generous contribution to its maintenance.

### III. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

#### Water Supplies

The Borough is within the area of the North and Mid Cornwall Water Board. The major source of supply for the town is from the Board's De Lank Works, where recent extensions to the headworks have provided improvements in quality and quantity of water. Duplication and extension of trunk mains has been made to provide a direct supply to the Racecourse Reservoir.

#### Samples

During the year 84 samples of treated water were submitted for bacteriological analysis. Three only gave evidence of minor contamination. Samples of raw water were also submitted for chemical and bacteriological analysis. They showed little variation from those previously submitted.



## Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The three sewage works, Scarletts Well, Dragon Pits and Blowinghouse continued to serve the town. Dragon Pits is overloaded and its general condition, due to age, is poor. A site is being considered for a new works to replace this one, which may also deal with sludge from Blowinghouse and Scarletts Well. The disposal of offensive sludge is still a serious problem. The Council is considering the application of extended aeration to overcome the nuisance which arises from exposure of sludge for long periods in drying beds. Ministry approval for the trunk sewer to Scarletts Well has not yet been received. Overloading of these works continues during storm conditions.

## Refuse Collection and Disposal

The refuse collection service was re-organised during the year, providing considerable saving in time and labour, allowing an extended service without additional cost. It is expected that the continued growth of the town with growing demands on this service, will require an additional vehicle during 1969.

A new site is being investigated jointly with neighbouring authorities, with County Planning approval for the controlled disposal of the town's refuse. The present tip, unless strictly controlled, can be a source of complaint during the summer months.

## Rodent Control

The Council employ a part time operative, and there are 2710 non-agricultural premises and 13 farms in the area. Routine inspections totalled 1446 and 164 complaints were investigated. Minor rat infestation was found in 31 cases and 16 mouse infestations. Of farms, 3 were found to have minor rat infestation. Treatment was carried out in all cases.

## Caravan Sites-Control of Development Act, 1960

There is one licenced residential site at Dunmere, of 19 permanent caravans, which is excellently maintained. There are 4 licences for individual sites. One prosecution was instituted for the use of a site without a licence, but was withdrawn as the owner removed the caravan before court proceedings were taken.

## Swimming Pool

The pool continued to attract numerous users as well as daily use by the Schools and other organisations. Major improvements to the pool itself - the addition of a further filtration plant and refurbishing the pool wall by tiling and re-decoration, also re-decoration of the changing rooms was in progress at the end of the year; the pool was programmed to re-commission in mid January. Three Bacterial and 1 Chemical Analyses of water were taken, and all were satisfactory; daily records are kept of PH chlorine content and water and hall temperature. Every precaution is taken daily to ensure cleanliness, in particular against the spread of Plantar Warts and Athletes Foot.

## Public Health Inspections

### Summary of Visits

Meat Inspection	446
Housing	30
Food Establishments	148
Office, Shops and Railway Premises	136
Others	60
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Total	820
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Due to the absence of Mr. Morris at Bristol Technical College, routine inspections were limited, and visits were confined to general inspections and complaints. Inspections under the Office, Shops and Railway Premises Act were few.

### Housing

Council Housing. During the year, 20 Resiform Fibreglass Houses were completed at Margaret Crescent, and by the end of the year 52 of the 152 dwellings were completed at Kinsman Estate, Whitestone Road. Final agreement has been reached with the Ministry of Housing for 69 dwellings to be erected off Barn Lane by Selleck Nicholls Williams Ltd., and these are expected to commence in February, 1969. The Council has purchased approximately 14 acres of land at the rear of Higher Bore Street for the erection of some 150 dwellings, and has appointed Messrs. Marshman Warren Taylor as architects for the scheme: the Ministry of Housing and Local Government request that this scheme be different from the normal Council housing developments. The Council's Housing List continues to grow, which is, of course allied to the industrial development of the town and in which the Council are playing an important part in providing housing accommodation for factory workers.

Private Development. This continues to progress, 67 dwellings having been completed during the year with a further 250 dwellings for which planning approval has been given on various sites.

Council/Private. The Council policy of providing sites for private building continued. At St. Mary's Road, a site has been laid out complete with roads and sewers for 41 sites; it is expected that a further site will be commenced at the Priory Park for a further 89 sites.

Housing Act, 1957. Closing Orders were placed on two premises and schedules of work accepted in two cases of Notices served under Section 16, Health Act, 1957.

Grants. Two standard grants were approved during the year.

## Food and Drugs Act, 1955

There are 48 Food Premises concerned with the sale of food and 8 premises concerned with the manufacture or wholesale distribution of food. Inspections were carried out on 148 occasions. Ice cream was retailed from 19 registered premises. Milk was distributed from 5 registered distributors. Eleven ice cream samples were submitted, of which 5 were in Grade I, 3 in Grade II, 2 in Grade III and 1 in Grade IV. One ice water sample was taken which proved entirely satisfactory.

Condemned Food. The following items were surrendered voluntarily:-

986 tins of various foodstuffs.  
210 lbs. fish.  
16,319 lbs. meat, including poultry.  
34 cases peas.  
50 bags carrots.  
388 lbs. melons.  
233 pkts. various frozen foodstuffs.

## Slaughter-houses and Meat Inspection

The two licenced slaughter-houses continued to operate satisfactorily. All carcasses, including those slaughtered at St. Lawrence's Hospital for hospital consumption, were inspected, the analysis of the inspections being as follows:-

	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Number killed	366	12	898	439
Number inspected	366	12	898	439

### All diseases except Cysticercosis and Tuberculosis

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	5	-
Carcase of which some part was condemned	43	-	12	5

### Tuberculosis

Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcass of which some part was condemned	-	-	-	5

### Cysticercosis

Whole carcass condemned	-	-	-	-
Carcass of which some part was condemned	2	-	1	-



## Factories

The number of factories registered with the Council continues to grow, mostly at Walker Lines and Victoria Square.

Thirty-four inspections were made, and 5 contraventions relating to sanitary provisions were rectified informally.

## IV PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

### Notified Infectious Diseases, 1968

Measles	13
Dysentery	20
Pulmonary T. B.	1
Non Pulmonary T. B.	1
Influenzal Pneumonia	1

There were no extensive outbreaks of infectious disease during the year. The cases of dysentery occurred over a period in St. Lawrence's Hospital. Following the intensive campaign of Measles Vaccination, it is hoped that the usual biennial outbreaks will not recur.

On the preventive side, immunisation against Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough and Poliomyelitis continues to be, accepted at a high rate. The protection against smallpox is quite insignificant as a public health measure.

Heaf testing and B.C.G. vaccination of Secondary School entrants was well accepted, and the visits of the Mass Radiography Unit each fortnight continued. No special incidence of pulmonary disease was reported.

In conclusion, may I thank the Members of the Council and Staff for their continued help, in particular Mr. Webb for information provided in the report.

I remain,

Your obedient servant

JOHN REED.

